

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 and 27-62 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Claim Objections

Applicants have replaced the word "A" with "The" as suggested by the Examiner.

Regarding the objections based on multiple dependency, the applicants' believe that their claims are correctly worded according to the MPEP and thus reconsideration is respectfully requested. See MPEP 608.01 n) "Acceptable multiple dependent claim wording" example claim 5

Claim 6 refers to Claim 4 or Claim 5 in the alternative only. Each of Claims 4 and 5 refers to only independent Claim 1. Thus it is submitted that these claims are proper.

Claim 7 follows the same analysis as Claim 6. The alternative "or" language is used. Thus claim 7 is also believed to be proper.

Claim 15 refers to Claim 13 or Claim 14 in the alternative only. Each of Claims 13 and 14 refers to only Claim 12. Claim 12 refers to only Claim 5. Claim 5 refers to only independent Claim 1. Thus it is submitted that these claims are proper.

Claim 16 follows the same analysis as Claim 15 and is therefore also believed to be proper.

Claim 17 refers to Claim 5 or Claim 12 in the alternative only. Claim 12 refers to only Claim 5. Claim 5 refers to only independent Claim 1.

Claim 18 follows the same analysis as that of Claim 17 and is therefore also believed to be proper.

If the Examiner continues to perceive a problem with the form of these claims, please contact applicants' attorney so that the issue can be pinpointed. From applicants' viewpoint, these claims appear to be in proper multiple dependent form.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under U.S. C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been amended to recite a computer-readable medium, thus rendering these claims statutory subject matter. Dependent claim 26 has been cancelled.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 61-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has found the language "all together" to be causing an antecedent basis problem.

Applicants have amended the parent claim 56 to expressly recite that the layered network comprises a *plurality* of nodes. Dependent claims 61 and 62 have been amended to refer to this plurality of nodes. Thus claim 56 now provides antecedent basis. The objected to "all together" language has been deleted. It is submitted that this amendment corrects any perceived antecedent basis problem and does not change the scope of these claims as originally presented. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 1-23 and 26-60 would be allowable if the above objections are overcome. Accordingly, in view of the above corrections, applicants submit that all objections have been overcome and that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5259-000032/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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